

OUTGOING MESSAGE

COMINT

CHANNELS

Approved For Release 2002/01/14 : CIA-RDP78S01932A000100020035-8

SIGNAL CENTER USE ONLY

AGE COI ACP TOG TPE MRO TRI

SCM 0 0 0 0 0 0

CLASSIFICATION

CONFIDENTIAL

MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR

CIA/OCI

DATE-TIME GROUP

CITE

MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

SOURCE REF:

25X1A

CIA/MHSS

ROUTING

1	4	7	10
2	5	8	11
3	6	9	12

TO: IMMEDIATE WHITE HOUSE//SITUATION ROOM FOR MR MCNAMEE.

STATE RCI//OPERATIONS CENTER MR FRY, NMCC//ATTENTION

WARNING NOTICE SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS INVOLVED

ITEM NO: 2

DATE: 14 FEB 74

SUBJECT: SOVIET OFFICIAL SAYS MOSCOW ACCEPTS ASSURED DESTRUCTION

DOCTRINE

25X1A

REF:

A SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL CLAIMS MOSCOW ACCEPTS THE DOCTRINE OF MUTUAL ASSURED DESTRUCTION. SPEAKING TO A US DIPLOMAT IN MOSCOW ON TUESDAY, OLEG ISKOLOV, OF THE USA DIVISION OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, SAID THAT MOSCOW HAS BEEN UNRELUCTANT TO ACKNOWLEDGE ITS ACCEPTANCE IN PUBLIC BECAUSE FOR FEAR OF GIVING THE ERRONIOUS IMPRESSION THAT THE TWO SIDES CONTEMPLATE WITH EQUALITY THE IDEA OF DESTROYING EACH OTHER. ISKOLOV ALSO SAID THAT SOVIET LEADERS HAD DECIDED ONLY RELUCTANTLY TO ALLOW THEIR PRESS TO DEAL WITH SECRETARY SCHLESINGER'S STATEMENTS ON THE NEW US NUCLEAR

DATE:

ORIG:

UNIT:

EXT:

RELEASING OFFICER

COORDINATING OFFICERS

AUTHENTICATING OFFICER

CLASSIFICATION

REPRODUCTION BY OTHER THAN THE ISSUING OFFICE IS PROHIBITED

E 2 IMPDET

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FORM

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CHANNLES

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TARGETING OPTIONS. ACCORDING TO THIS OFFICIAL'S ACCOUNTS, THE SECRETARY'S COMMENTS ON US-SOVIET STRATEGIC COMPETITION, COUPLED WITH RECENT INCREASES IN THE US MILITARY BUDGET, FORCED MOSCOW'S HAND.

25X1X

SOKOLOV'S ASSERTION THAT THE USSR ADHERES TO THE ASSURED DESTRUCTION CONCEPT IS HIGHLY UNUSUAL, AND HAS PROBABLY PROMPTED BY-SOVIET CONCERNS THAT THE US IS MOVING AWAY FROM THIS DOCTRINE AND TOWARDS A COUNTERFORCE STRATEGY. A SOVIET SPECIALIST IN MILITARY AFFAIRS INDICATED AS MUCH LATE LAST MONTH IN COMMENTING ON THE IMPORT OF THE NEW US TARGETING OPTIONS. THE SOVIETS WILL REMAIN HESITANT TO ADDRESS THE MUTUAL DESTRUCTION DOCTRINE IN PUBLIC, PARTLY BECAUSE SOVIET MILITARY LEADERS BELIEVE THAT THE OPEN ESPousAL OF THE DOCTRINE MIGHT UNDERCUT THE RATIONALE FOR A NUCLEAR FIGHTING FORCE AND BREED PACIFISM IN THE RANKS. PUBLIC SILENCE ON MUTUAL ASSURED DESTRUCTION ALSO HAS THE EFFECT OF PRESERVING MOSCOW'S NUCLEAR OPTIONS AGAINST THE CHINESE AND OTHER NUCLEAR POWERS, WHO MAY NOT IN SOVIET EYES HAVE THE CAPABILITY TO INFILk AN IMPERMISSIBLE LEVEL OF DAMAGE ON THE USSR IN A NUCLEAR

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EXCHANGE: E-2 IMPDET-N

(SPECIAL DISTRIBUTION: E EUR DIV AND NIO [REDACTED]

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24 FEB 74

SUSY

CTA OPERATIONS CTR

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DATE

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